

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-04 OMB-01 INT-05

COME-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 CG-00 COA-01 DLOS-03 SWF-01

OES-03 /081 W

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R 240844Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5490

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

:CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 13851

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ETRN JA CH TW

SUBJ: SINO-JAPANESE RELATIONS: SHIPPING TALKS

REF: A. TOKYO 13166 B. PEKING 1750 C. TOKYO 13426

D. TOKYO 13597

SUMMARY: CHINESE HAVE APPARENTLY DROPPED DEMANDS IN SHIPPING TALKS FOR GOJ STATEMENT ON TAIWAN. AGREEMENT COULD BE CONCLUDED QUICKLY AND SIGNED BEFORE YEAR'S END. PEKING'S CONCERN OVER PM TANAKA'S WEAKENED POSITION, DESIRE TO SHOW FRUITS OF RAPPROCHMENT WITH WEST AND JAPAN, AND CONCERN THAT PRO-TAIWAN FORCES MIGHT BE STRENGTHENED IN JAPAN IF PRC-JAPAN RELATIONS SOURED SEEM TO BE MOTIVES BEHIND PRC FLEXIBILITY. END SUMMARY.

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1. FONOFF CHINA DIV DEP DIR OGURA INFORMED US THAT IN SHIPPING TALKS BEING HELD IN PEKING PRC NEGOTIATORS ACCEPTED GOJ ARGUMENTATION THAT A STATEMENT BY GOJ ON TAIWAN'S FLAG OR SHIPS WOULD BE: A) INAPPROPRIATE AND INCONSONANT WITH INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING CUSTOM (JAPANESE EMPHASIZED POINT THAT WHEREAS GOVERNMENTS REGULATE AVIATION, SHIPPING IS NORMALLY CONDUCTED ON MORE OR LESS AUTONOMOUS BASIS.) AND B) UNACCEPTABLE POLITICALLY IN JAPAN. THUS, FONOFF FORESEES THAT REMAINING TECHNICAL MATTERS AND DETAILS OF NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE SETTLED RAPIDLY, PERHAPS EVEN WITHIN DAYS, AND SHIPPING AGREEMENT SHOULD BE READY FOR SIGNING BEFORE END OF YEAR. FONOFF EXPECTS PRC VICE FONMIN HAN NIEN-LUNG WILL VISIT TOKYO FOR SIGNING.

2. OGURA REITERATED THAT CONCLUSION OF FISHERIES AGREEMENT, FOURTH AND FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE AGREEMENT CALLED FOR IN COMMUNIQUE ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, IS COMPLICATED BY LOS CONFERENCE. AS RESULT, ALTHOUGH DECISION NOT YET MADE, OGURA SAYS GOJ MAY ELECT TO PROCEED WITH PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY WITH PRC AFTER SHIPPING AGREEMENT IS CONCLUDED BUT BEFORE FISHERIES AGREEMENT IS NEGOTIATED.

3. OGURA COMMENTED THAT PEKING SEEMED EXTREMELY EAGER RECENTLY TO COMPLETE NORMALIZATION PROCESS WITH JAPAN. AS EVIDENCE, HE CITED PEKING'S WILLINGNESS TO DROP DEMANDS IN SHIPPING TALKS FOR STATEMENT ON TAIWAN AND PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRC LEADERS THAT SENKAKUS ISSUE WOULD BE SHELVED UNTIL AFTER PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY IS CONCLUDED.

4. COMMENT: WE ASCRIBE PEKING'S SEEMING EAGERNESS TO THREE FACTORS: A) PRC POLITICAL ASSESSMENT OF TANAKA CABINET PROSPECTS MAY HAVE LED PEKING TO PUSH FOR PROGRESS TOWARD NORMALIZATION WHILE TANAKA IS STILL IN OFFICE; B) MORE MODERATE PRC LEADERS, ESPECIALLY CHOU EN-LAI, WISH TO DEMONSTRATE QUICK RESULTS IN DEVELOPING RELATIONS WITH JAPAN TO BOLSTER, DOMESTICALLY, PRC POLICY OF RAPPROCHMENT WITH JAPAN, US, AND WEST GENERALLY; C) IN ADDITION, CHINESE MAY HAVE CONCLUDED THAT TOUGHER JAPANESE STANCE ON TAIWAN ISSUE WAS AUTHENTIC. AS RESULT, CHINESE PERHAPS DECIDED ENDLESS
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HAGGLING WITH THE JAPANESE WOULD NOT BE FRUITFUL, AND MIGHT LEAD TO REPAIR OF RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND TAIWAN.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIPS, POLICIES, AGREEMENTS, MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO13851
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740303-0991
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741018/aaaaaozi.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. TOKYO 13166 B. PEKING 1750 C. TOK, YO 13426
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SINO-JAPANESE RELATIONS: SHIPPING TALKS
TAGS: PFOR, ETRN, JA, CH, TW
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005